

Subject: Sultan Ali Dinar of Darfur--

coins made from disks punched
out of petroleum tins.

Robinson, Arthur E.

[St. Albans, Hertfordshire
England]

1932

February 15, 1932.

Mr. Arthur E. Robinson
The Antiquarian Association of the British Isles
Aldine Chambers,
13, Paternoster Row,
London, E. C. London.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I was much interested in reading your article on "False and Imitation Roman Coins" that appeared in the December Journal of the Antiquarian Association.

On page 101 you spoke of some coins made by Sultan Ali Dinar of Darfur made from discs punched out of petroleum tins. Is it possible for this museum to get an example of this coin?

Very truly yours,

HW:JC

Curator

2, FRAMPTON ROAD,
ST. ALBANS,
HERTS.

March 3rd 1932

The Curator,

The American Numismatic Society

Broadway, between 155th and 156th Streets.

New York. U.S.A.

Dear Mr Wood,

I was pleased to receive your letter of the 15th ultimo. The time spent on the compilation of my paper has been well repaid by the attention which it has received from those who are qualified to express an opinion. I have just passed the galley proofs for part 2. Most of the information has not been published previously and as the cost of the plates and production generally has been very high, the publishers would much esteem a notice in your publications.

As far as I know nothing has been published regarding the coins of Ali Dinar and I do not think that any of his predecessors struck money as coins. I regret that you did not write to me before as the only authentic specimen (of the issue I described in my paper) I have seen was given by my wife to the British Museum, a few days ago and I have no photograph of it. There are similar coins from the same and other dies but other material was used.

A correspondent wrote to me from Central Africa a few days ago stating that he had some such but I have recommended

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him to send any that he could spare to the Ashmolean Museum(Oxford University) as candidates for the service to which I belonged take a special course there now.

As a number of Americans served in Dar Fur sixty years ago, it may be of interest to you that a chronology and history written by me was published in the Journal of the African Society(London) in 1929-30. A copy of a native history was sent to Chicago Univ. back ^{26/8/1927,}

If I hear of any more of these coins I shall communicate with you again.

It is presumed that you have specimens of the original 1780 Maria Theresa dollars, the re-struck issue of 1869 and the later issues prior to 1914. They are quite distinct and you might be able to obtain these from your diplomatic agent at Addis Abeba

Yours faithfully
Arthur E. Robinson
Late Sudan Civil Service

* although all dated 1780.

March 17, 1932.

Mr. Arthur E. Robinson
2 Brampton Road
St. Albans, Herts.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I was most pleased to receive your letter and also naturally sorry that you had not more of those Ali Dinar coins. If by any chance you should get hold of any or hear of where I could get a specimen or so I would appreciate it very much if you would let me know.

Awhile ago we got some crude copper coins from Kilwa down on the coast near Zanzibar that up to date have been unknown.

We have all sorts of Maria Theresa talers from various parts of the world and for the most are able to distinguish the approximate periods of minting. As a matter of fact these have been made nearly every year since 1780. In fact, we got a few from the Austrian mint about five years ago that they had just struck.

A British soldier once told me that Gordon made some lead coins besides the paper money issues that he got out in large quantities. I have never been able to confirm this report. We have probably today in our Cabinet the finest collection of Omdurman coins that there is. We have been getting these together for years and I was fortunate a number of years ago to get a very remarkable collection of these formed by a numismatic member of the French Fashoda Expedition. I helped the one time Mr. Job in writing his monograph on these.

Very truly yours,